Reduction of forces along LoC

2804. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plan for reduction of the forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no plans to reduce the force level along the Line of Control at this juncture.

Intrusion by Pakistani UAV

2805. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pakistani unmanned aerial vehicle intruded into Indian airspace over Poonch District of Jammu and Kashmir on the night of 24th February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Radar System in the area could spot it before it returned to Pakistan;

(c) if so, why it could not be intercepted and shot down when it was still over Indian airspace;

(d) how many such violations by UAVs from Pakistan have been detected during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken to ensure that such violations of Indian airspace do not take place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There were 21 incidents of violation of Indian air space by Pakistan's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) during the last three years (1 st January, 2000 to 3rd April, 2003).

(e) The Indian Air Force has the requisite air defence mechanism in place to monitor and thwart intrusions by any aircraft. Protests are also lodged with the concerned country through diplomatic channels.

Setting up of defence industrial projects in Kerala

2806. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any defence related Industrial Projects in Kerala;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal for setting up defence industrial units from any sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has taken decision on the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There is no plan at present to set up any new defence related Industrial project in Kerala.

(b) No proposal from the State Government has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Ratification of convention of torture

2807. SHRI RANGANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which India has not accepted the convention against torture and other crimes, inhuman degrading treatment, inspite of recommendations of the NHRC;

(b) the response of Government thereon; and

(c) by when it would be enforced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Government of India have decided to ratify the United Nations Convention against torture. However, there is a need to bring the existing legislation in conformity with the provisions of the Convention.

(b) Action in this regard has been initiated.